H.B.L

May 29th,1925

State of New York
County of Erie
City of Buffalo.

Harold B.Lynch being duly sworn deposes and says I am 3o years old, married and reside at no.21o Porter ave,with my wife and three children occupation at present time unemployed, I was born and raised in the State of Wisconsin,and came to Buffalo N.Y.in the year of 1913.at that time I came here on the U.S.training ship (Tuscorara) having enlisted in the U. S.Navy at Milwaukee,Wis,this is the first time that I was ever in Buffalo,but was here on visits several times between this time and the year of 1919.when I came to Buffalo to reside here permanently,I served in the U.S. Navy doing active service for a period of seven and half years,and was carried on the reserve force list of the Navy for a period of four and half years,and my enlistment expired the first day of May 1925, at which time I received an honorable discharge and was recommended by my Commanding Officer Lieut.D.Browne,U.S.N. for re-enlistment as chief boatswain mate, during the period of reserve service a man is permitted to follow any other calling but is subject to call by the President at anytime for service,While on this service a man is allowed two full months pay each year,and is compelled to attend drill weekly. during my residence in buffalo I have been employed at different occupations,but as I was a member of the intelligence bureau while in the Navy I was particularly fond of detective work and conducting investigations and always sought this kind of work when able to get it,I became acquainted with David D.Mayne in the year of 1923.at that time he was investigator for the intelligence ######### section of the knights of the Ku-Klux-Klan in the fall of this same year while I was employed as caretaker of a boathouse at Black Rock where a number of prominent Buffalonians kept their yachts I came in contact with Mayne again and he wanted me to try and get some of these gentlemen to speak for him for the position of Deputy in the event of the election of Sheriff Tyler who he was campaigning for at the time which I did.after rhis meeting I was in the company of Mayne frequently,and he told me that the KU-Klux-Klan were anticipating making a number of raids on violators of the liquor and narcotic law and that some money could be made and he agreed to call and get me and take me to the residence of the Rev.Smith No.34 Gallatin Ave,where we were to discuss the best means of conducting these raids,on or about December 15th,1923,Mayne came to my home in an auto to get me hw was accompanied by the Rev.L.E.M. Smith,and a man named Bob. Colgrove,we started for the residence of the Rev.Smith who waw chairman of the law enforcement committee of the Ku-Klux Klan and there was to be a meering of what is known as the innecr

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circle or his home,on the way there we stopped at Klein,s garage No.577 Tonawanda st.during our ride there we had been discussing the best means of staging raids,while there and during the course of our conversation the Rev. Smith said to me why dont you get a white robe? I replied I would if I could he then asked me several questions as to my religious belief and was very particular to ascertain if any of my blood relatives were of the Catholic faith,and I informed him that none of my relatives either by blood or marriage were of the catholic faith,later that same evening while Mayne and I were at the Y.M.C.A. where he was stopping he gave me a card that is called (Hon Syiba Ner Anthem) this is an application card for the Klan,I went to Mizpah Hall on the evening of December 19th,1923.with David Mayne to be initiated as a member of this order,Mayne went good for the $5 initiation fee and my dues and I was admitted as amember that same evening with a class of forty of fifty more candidates, I started as a volunteer investigator for this order on or about January 1st,1924.and was continually with the Rev.Smith,Mayne and other members of the order on all raids conducted and all investigations made,among which were the spectacular raids staged.at the following places, Jew Minnie,s Williamsville N.Y.Klipfel,s,Kitty Kuhns Road Inn ,and Bark Inn, these raids were all planned by the Law and Enforcement committee of the Klan of which the Rev.L.E'H.Smith is chairman and were conducted by the robed members of the order,I am positive the (Smith) was present at all these displays robed and carried the sword,Mayne some other member and myself always went to these placesin an auto previous to the arrival of the robed members we were all armed and our particular instructions were to him (Smith) under cover and from being recognized at any hazard.

It was understood that His Honor the Mayor had passed a remark in one of his speeches that he would like to see some honest togoodness Klansmen at the suggestion of John Sturm it was decided to hold a Klan meeting at Unity Hall on Niagara near Hamilton St. in the spring of 1924.and it was planned to invite Mayor Schwab under the guise of a business mens meeting to discuss Proposed Improvements in that section,Mayne and myself were designated to cover the Mayor,s trail to make sure that he had no protection with him,there was no one admitted to this meeting except by ticket,all were members of the order,when the mayor was speaking he was asked his opinion of the Klan,and when he started to denounce them,the robed members of the order untered and forming a half circle around the platform the spokesman who carried the sword and who was the Rev,L.E.H. Smith pointed the sword at Schwab and in a carefully prepared speech expressed their

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dissatisfaction of the methods of his honor in maintaining law and order, their purpose was to show that they were organized and amounted to something and wanted to intimidate the mayor.

Failing in their previous effort to embarrass His Honor Mayor Schwab another meeting was planned I cannot say by whom, there was a new garage to be opened at No. East Ferry St. and to invite the Mayor to make a speech, have a party there serve liquor, put on nude dances etc. thinking that the Mayor might pass this up as a matter of good fellowship and then to show his utter disregard for law and order, it was planned to call Captain Robertson of the State Troopers and have him Raid the place while the Mayor was present, no one was to be admitted to this affair only by ticket so as to eliminate all but (those vouched for) Rev. L. E. H. Smith gave me $6 and instructed me to go to the Allen Pharmacy and get two tickets for this affair and to meet Patrolmen Loudan and Rheinhardt in room No. 18 Mezzaline floor Statler hotel and give them each a ticket I procured these tickets as instructed and then called Chief Zimmerman and told him to have Loudan and Rheinhardt meet me at the hotel as I had the tickets for them, he knew what I meant as he had already been told by the Rev. Smith and was expecting a call from me, about 10 or 15 minutes later both these officers appeared at the hotel and I personally delivered tickets to them, they asked me if there was anything new turned up, and I said I did not know of anything new. They went to the meeting in Rheinhardt's car and I used the Police Car, No. 7B 1234. We hung around the corner until Loudan came out and he told us that Judge Hartzell had just spoke and that they were waiting for the Mayor. This was about 10 :30 P. M. and we remained there until 12 o'clock. When we all left I drove the Police car to the corner of Allen and College Streets and left same there as instructed to do by Loudan. I then got into Auto with the Rev. Smith and two others, and was driven to my home. In the spring of 1924 I was called to the YMCA by David D. Mayne. Upon my arrival the following were present, Dan Tatem, the representative of Hiram W. Evans, Imperial Wizard, Knights of the Klu Klux Klan, Atlanta, Ga., Lucas V. Preuster Kleagle of the Realm of Niagara and Erie Counties and another man from Major E.D. Smith, Binghamton, N.Y. David D. Mayne, local investigator for the Klu Klux Klan and myself. Mayne introduced us to each other, and they discussed the financing. They were to raise money for the blowing up of the parsonage of the United Presbyterian Church, 34 Gallatin Avenue, which is the residence of the Rev. L.E.H. Smith.

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The purpose of this move as explained by Tatem during the discussion was to convey to the public th impression that the Rev. Smith was being oppressed, and that this was a move of someone of the underworld, done to intimidate Rev. Smith. Preuster suggested the name of a man who could have this job arranged and done for the price of $5,000. He suggested he could get a man by the name of Schaefer, an ex-marine, employed as armorer in the Armory at Niagara Falls, N. Y. An agreement reached between Tatem and Preuster, in my presence, that $2500 was to come from the national organization, and $2500 was to come from the local organization. After this agreement was reached, Preuster was orthorized by Tatem to get in touch with Schaefer at Niagara Falls, N.Y., and to report his progress of the meeting with Schaefer at the next meeting. ABout four days later we met again at Dave Mayne's room in the YMCA. Schaefer was in the lobby of the YMCA, but did not enter the conference. During this conference it was agreed to draw the money from the bank, from the account of Major E.D.Smith, at the Manufacturers and Traders National Bank, Buffalo, N.Y., after Preuster had reported that Schaefer could get two Calabrese (Italians), who would do the job for the amount mentioned. The following day we met in the Colloonade Lunch. The following were present, Dave Mayne, Preuster, Tatem and myself. After lunch we went to the Manufacturers and Traders Bank, on Broadway to procure the cash. Preuster and Tatem went into the bank, and when they came out they had Preuster had five $1,000 bills. We then drove downtown and had the bills changed to smaller denominations. Preuster and Tatem got out of the machine to do this. I cannot say just where this was. We then went to the YMCA lobby, where we met Schaefer, whom Tatem questioned at length as to the possibility of any slip-up in this transaction. When satisfied that everything was O.K., Tatem had the money in three different envelopes, which he took out and counted, each one, before giving the same to Schaefer. Schaefer then got the understanding that he was to await the directions of Preuster. Schaefer then left. A date in the middle of April was decided on for the job to be pulled off. Mayne and myself were watching the house for about two months, previous to the bombing. This job was not pulled off as originally scheduled, but took place two days later. Early in the evening on the night of the bombing Mayne and myself were instructed by the Rev. L .E. H.Smith, to cover the Simon Brewery and watch for beer being taken from this place. Shortly after 11 P. M. on this night, Mayne and myself returned to the Rev. L.E.H.Smith's home. There was no one at home but the light was burning. Mayne had a key and we both entered. Knowing that Isaac's, 59 Prairie, being an intimate

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friend and ~~[illegible]~~ fellow klansman of the Rev. L.E. H.Smith, we went there to see if we could locate Mr. Smith. Seeing his car in front of the house, Maxwell Sedan No. 294-394, we went in. There were several people present, all of whom were klansmen or their families. Isaac 's house is about three block s from Smith 's residence. About 12 'clock midnight, Mayne and myself were having lunch when we heard an explosion. At this time Mayne said to me "there she goes". We both then got out caps and ran over to Smith 's house, as we knew what had happened. The Rev. Smith drove over in his automobile arriving shortly after we did. Smith had been informed by Mayne, regarding the conversation and arrangements with Preuster and Tatem, to pull this job. When Smith arrived the first thing he mentioned was that there was still a light burning, and said it was good thing that none of them were home. He did not appear at all excited, and judge that the remarks were for effect only, ad by this time there were many people in the vicinity. When at Isaac 's I learned that the two older Smith children were at Tom Patterson 's house nearby. There were services in the Rev. Smith 's church until about [illegible] they [illegible] left and went to th[illegible]tioned

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